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'Lil Nessie



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Chapter 1 by Brandy

The pool was green when Winston got home. The algae growing on the bottom was four feet long, nearly breaking the water line.

"I know I'm back a bit early, but I don't think you'd have been able to fix this in two days," Winston said. He leaned against the gate to the fence surrounding his backyard pool.

Marisa spun around on the diving board. She hastily hid something behind her back. Unfortunately for Marisa, her lanky 15-year-old frame was not large enough to hide the pole in her hands.

Winston reached for the latch and started to enter the pool area. He said, "I thought this may have been too much responsibility for a child." After securing the latch, he walked to the edge of the pool. "Hand me the scoop I'll see if I can get some of these leaves before I get out the chemicals and shock the whole thing."

Out of the corner of Winston's eye, he saw a ripple of movement in the scummy pool water.

Trembling, Marisa held out the pole and turned a steely glare to the depths. Winston grabbed the pole and realized it wasn't a pole. "There's something in there," she said in a whisper. Winston looked from the water to Marisa. In his hand, he now held a harpoon.

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From the pool, there came a sudden splash.

Chapter 2 by Angel Parker Zamora



"It's a fluke," Marisa gasped as she scrambled away from the pool's edge.

Winston nodded in agreement. He then proceeded to crane his neck out over the pool, straining to see into the murky depths. He glanced to the sky, then back to the pool. He looked at the branch from his avocado tree, trying to calculate the distance. He nodded again, certain he'd figured out the source of the splash and the reason for the awful discoloration of his once pristine swimming pool.

Keeping a tight grasp on the surprisingly heavy harpoon, Winston straightened from his crouch and faced Marisa. "Probably the avacados have been falling off the tree, bouncing off the deck, and landing in the pool." Winston explained, using the harpoon to gesture to the tree, deck, and pool in turn.

The teen girl merely cocked her head and stared at him, both speechless and dumbfounded, before returning her gaze to the pool.

"Now about this ... harpoon? How?" Winston stuttered "... Where does a 15 year old even acquire...?" His voice trailed off as Marisa shrugged dismissively.

"Amazon" she answered. "I paid extra for next day shipping" she added.

Suddenly water drops sprinkled the back of Winston's neck. Marisa's eyes widened. Her voice shook and her hand trembled as she pointed over Winston's shoulder.

"It's a fluke" Marisa restated.

The splash was larger than the previous one he'd heard. It was then he understood, Marisa was using the other definition of the word.

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